

# ADECA *2005-2006 Annual Report*



*Help for Today  
... Hope for Tomorrow*



*Alabama Department of Economic  
and Community Affairs*



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# Help for Today ∙∙ Hope for Tomorrow

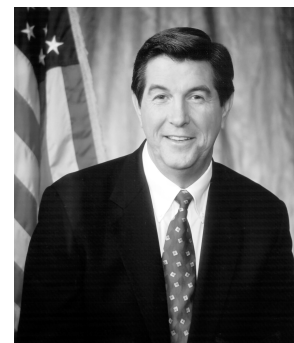
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**Bob Riley**  
GOVERNOR



**State of Alabama**



**Bob Riley**  
Governor

### **A Message from Governor Bob Riley**

Alabama has come a long way over the past four years, and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs has played a major role.

Unemployment has fallen to historic low levels because of our success in attracting new businesses and helping existing industries to thrive and expand. ADECA economic development grants helped many small communities provide the infrastructure necessary to support this business growth.

Well-trained employees are critical to business success. With vital support from ADECA, our Office of Workforce Development became the top-rated program in the nation. ADECA also helped create a distance learning network that is giving Alabama children and adults unprecedented access to educational opportunities.

Alabama has become a safer place, thanks in part to ADECA programs that support multi-jurisdictional drug task forces and other law enforcement initiatives.

In the future, I expect ADECA to play an even greater role in moving Alabama forward in the areas of economic growth, public safety and quality of life.

ADECA's traffic safety programs will be a cornerstone of the Safe Roads Initiative, part of our Plan 2010 vision for Alabama. Other law enforcement programs administered by the department will support our plans to reform the state's corrections system.

The last few years have underscored the importance of disaster preparedness and ADECA will assist with the disaster recovery steps outlined in Plan 2010.

ADECA also will continue to make major contributions to the quality of life in Alabama: by helping communities build and expand parks, trails and other recreational facilities; by safeguarding our water resources; and by supporting the development and distribution of alternative fuels that will reduce our dependence on foreign energy supplies.

With its wide range of indispensable programs, ADECA will continue to give Alabamians help for today and hope for tomorrow.

Sincerely,

**Bob Riley**  
Governor



**BOB RILEY**  
GOVERNOR



**STATE OF ALABAMA**



**Bill JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

## **ADECA Provides Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow**

State government exists to serve the people. As part of our mission to build stronger and better Alabama communities, the staff of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs provides services and administers hundreds of grants that help Alabamians improve their lives.

This annual report focuses on a small sample of ADECA programs that assisted people throughout the state in fiscal year 2006. In the report, you will find the stories of real citizens who have directly benefited from ADECA programs and services, people who have found new careers or regained hope for brighter futures as a result of assistance from one of ADECA's divisions.

Whether through funding a community's first public park, helping the poor pay heating bills, providing Community Development Block Grants to help communities rebuild from Hurricane Katrina, supporting an emergency shelter for domestic violence victims or providing other assistance, ADECA programs and services significantly improve the quality of life for Alabama residents.

ADECA's professional staff is dedicated to administering our programs efficiently and distributing resources around the state where they will do the most good. I am grateful to the entire staff for their hard work and especially to Assistant Director Doni Ingram who guided ADECA as its acting director for four months during my leave of absence.



ADECA  
Assistant Director  
Doni M. Ingram

Finally, I would like to thank Governor Riley not only for his leadership of our state, but also for entrusting me with the responsibility of directing an agency that does so much to improve the quality of life for all Alabamians. During the coming year I look forward to working with ADECA staff and community leaders to continue giving Alabamians help for today and hope for tomorrow.

Sincerely,



## Energy, Weatherization and Technology

Terri Adams, Division Director

- Telecommunications Technology assistance Program
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- Energy Emergency and Assurance Program
- State Building Energy Efficiency Program
- Local Government Energy Loan Program
- Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program
- Alternative Transportation Fuels Program
- State Energy Program
- Energy-Efficient Homes Program
- ENERGY STAR® Program
- Recycling Program
- Building Energy Codes Program
- Biomass Energy Program
- Energy Education Program
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

## Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety

Robert H. Pruitt, Division Director

- Family Violence and Victims' Programs
- Law Enforcement Programs
- Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities
- Highway Traffic Safety
- Juvenile Justice
- Corrections

## Community and Economic Development Programs

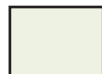
Shabbir Olia, Programs Manager

- Economic Development
- Competitive Grants
- Special Projects
- Community Enhancement
- Community Service Block Grants
- Community Action Agencies
- Emergency Shelter Grants
- Community Food and Nutrition
- Planning Grants

## Office of Workforce Development

Tim Alford, Director

- Workforce Investment Act
- Career Readiness Certificate Initiative
- Alabama's Career Center System
- Alabama Customized Employment Program
- Focused Industry Training
- Incumbent Worker Training
- Rapid Response
- Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development



Granting Entities



Support Entities



Other Entities

Organizational Chart as of  
September 30, 2006

**Governor's Resources and Economic Assistance Programs**  
 Bea Forniss, Programs Manager
 

- Renewal Communities
- Enterprise Communities
- Delta Regional Authority
- Gulf Opportunity Zone Credit Program
- Minority Business Enterprises
- Community and Economic Development Technical Assistance
- Alabama Enterprise Zones

**Recreational Programs**  
 Jon Strickland, Programs Manager
 

- Land & Water Conservation Fund
- Recreational Trail Program

**Appalachian Regional Commission**  
 Bonnie Durham, Program Manager
 

- Appalachian Regional Development
- Appalachian Research, Technical Assistance and Demonstration Projects
- Appalachian Area Development

**Office of Water Resources**  
 Eddie Davis, Acting Director
 

- Floodplain Management
- Geographic Information System Program
- Interstate Support Program
- Alabama Water Resources Commission
- Water Management Program

**Human Resources**  
 Ramona Carroll  
 Manager

**Program Integrity**  
 Paula Murphy  
 Manager

**Legal**  
 Eddie Davis  
 Legal Counsel

**Audit**  
 Wendy Spivey  
 Audit Manager

**Communications and Information**  
 Larry Childers, Division Director
 

- Public Information
- Census Bureau Liaison
- Graphic Arts
- Legislation
- Charitable Campaigns

**Financial Services**  
 Tammy Rolling, Accounting Director
 

- Fiscal Section
- Property Management
- Payroll

**Information Services**  
 Scott Randolph, Manager
 

- PC Support
- Operations
- Telecommunications
- Programming

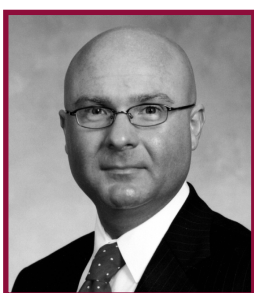
**Surplus Property**  
 Shane Bailey, Division Director
 

- State and Federal Property Collection
- Transfers to Governments, Non-profits
- Public Auctions

# Legislative Oversight Commission 2005-2006

The Legislative Oversight Commission was a part of the 1983 Act which created the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs—Act 83-194. The commission is composed of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation, three members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House.

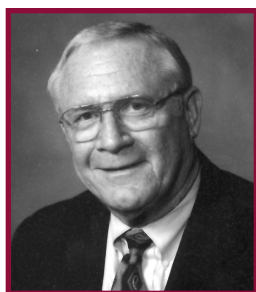
## House



Chairperson  
Neal Morrison



John Knight



Tommy Carter

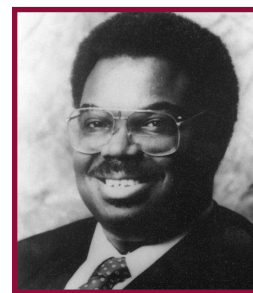


Thad McClammy



Jack Page

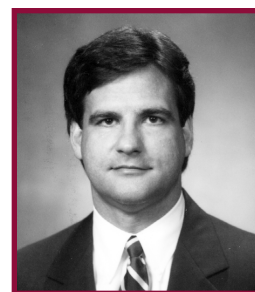
## Senate



Hank Sanders



Roger Bedford



Phil Poole



Bobby Denton



Zeb Little

# Community and Economic Development Programs

## MISSION

To distribute block grant funds through an effective and efficient means to promote the development of economically viable communities and a suitable living environment by creating sound and adequate public facilities, utilities, infrastructure, housing and job opportunities.

### Programs Administered

- Economic Development Grants
- Competitive Grants
- Planning Grants
- Community Enhancement Grants
- Community Service Block Grants
- Community Action Agencies
- Emergency Shelter Grants
- Community Food and Nutrition

## Seniors Benefit from Talladega Springs Grant to Revive Former Masonic Lodge Building

The purported healing waters brought in flocks of people and commerce to the town of Talladega Springs in the early 1900s, but the sulfur springs could provide no remedy to revive the town which began to decline after a disease epidemic in the early 1930s.

Town officials, determined not to go down without a fight, are making efforts to rejuvenate the community. Recently they applied for a Community Development Block Grant to resurrect a former Masonic lodge into an activity center for senior citizens. Asking for the \$57,456 grant was a bold step because it required the town to dig deep into its shallow pockets for \$6,340 in local funding. To raise money, the 124 residents of Talladega Springs held special fundraisers and volunteers agreed to provide some of the labor and materials for the renovation.

"I was skeptical about it," said former Councilwoman Ann Shaw. "I never thought it would go over (because so few people live in the community)."

But when the center opened in March 2005, Shaw saw the beginning of something she never expected.

"It has grown by leaps and

bounds, and it's not just people in the community who are coming," said Shaw. "We reach out a good 10 miles to other areas. It has really helped blend the communities."

Faye Butler said the center, which provides meals, fellowship and activities for seniors, has "been a blessing" for her and others who regularly attend center activities. Butler, a recent transplant to the area, said the center has served to introduce her to people in the community.

"The community has just come closer together because of this," she said. "We just get together, enjoy the company and cheer each other up. It's been wonderful."



Director Nancy Mitchell said the senior center started off slowly, but that is quickly changing.



Before the center was started, senior citizens had to go to Sylacauga or Childersburg to receive services, including nutritional weekday lunches.

Director Nancy Mitchell said the senior center started off slowly, but that is quickly changing.

"We have more and more people join us each month," said Mitchell.

A van donated by the Talladega County Commission has enabled the center to conduct regular field trips, said Mitchell's husband, Frank Mitchell, who is also the town's mayor.

Frank Mitchell said the grant enabled

the town to install a kitchen, windows and a porch on the 2,700-square-foot building.

"There's no doubt, it is one of our more successful projects," said Ellen Austin, director of the East Alabama Planning and Development Commission, which submitted the grant application for the town. "We are just so glad we were able to help with the project."

The town once boasted several stores, a bank, a hotel and four trains a day when people throughout the South visited the area for its water and its offerings as a resort.

## Residents Get Safe, Reliable Water Thanks to Community Development Block Grant

It took a while for Cecil Kimbrell to acquire a taste for water treated with chlorine, but he is not complaining. It beats the alternative of having little or no water. Better yet, Kimbrell no longer has to be concerned that the water he or his family drinks will make them sick.

A Community Development Block Grant provided Kimbrell and about 100 other people

in the Fayette County community of Concord with a plentiful and safe supply of water by connecting them to a public water service.

Providing public water to rural communities is just one of the benefits stemming from the block grant program. Grants also have been awarded by Governor Riley to provide or improve sewer and drainage, build community and senior centers, provide infrastructure improvements to aid in the recruitment or expansion of businesses, resurface roads and build recreational facilities. The grants, designed to mainly benefit low- and moderate-income families and individuals, typically help fund large projects that counties, cities and towns could not undertake without reducing or cutting other vital services.

Public water for the Concord community was not just a desire, it was a necessity. Many residents depended on shallow wells or even above-ground springs as their main water supply. During dry summers they could never be certain if water coming from the spigots would be gushes or drips, pure or tinted or tainted with the harmful E. coli bacteria.

"My main problem was when the electricity went off you didn't have any water. It goes off approximately once a month and during the winter it's been off two to three weeks at a time," Kimbrell said. "But I guess I was lucky. I had good water most of the time, but some people around here never knew when they were going to run out of water whether it was the pump or something else."



*Community Development Block Grants have helped supply many areas in Alabama with plentiful and safe water.*



# Office of Workforce Development

## MISSION

To provide a market-driven system that delivers services to employers, employees and jobseekers using an innovative and comprehensive approach, which will provide employers with a prepared workforce to enhance the state's economic development and quality of life.

### Programs Administered

- Workforce Investment Act
- Alabama's Career Center System
- Alabama Customized Employment Program
- Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development
- Rapid Response
- Focused Industry Training
- Career Readiness Certificate Initiative
- Incumbent Worker Training

## OWD Program Prepares Workers for New Careers

When James Flowers hurt his leg, he knew his career as a carpenter was over. A father of three, and still in his prime at age 33, retirement was not an option. He had to take care of a family.

"I was at a crossroads in my life," Flowers said.

For 14 years the Valley resident earned his living as a carpenter, and his education had ended with the 10th grade. He not only needed to find a new career, he also needed the skills to get in the door. The Office of Workforce Development was there to help.

OWD created a new program in 2006 aimed at matching jobseekers with potential employers by certifying that workers possess the necessary skills for particular jobs. The Career Readiness Certificate benefits both workers and employers by increasing the chances that the right worker gets the right job.

"The certificate verifies that an individual can handle tasks needed by employers," said Sarah Horton, OWD's career readiness certification coordinator.

The certificate is awarded on three levels (gold, silver and bronze) based on scores achieved by workers who take a series of tests called Alabama WorkKeys. After completing requirements for his GED at Southern Union State Community College, Flowers

earned the state's first Career Readiness Certificate by passing the WorkKeys assessments on the gold level.

WorkKeys tests jobseekers' abilities in math, reading and locating information. Test results alert employers to workers who are qualified for openings and point out to workers what skills they may be lacking. For Flowers, the program has enabled him to start a whole new life, professionally speaking. He now works at a distribution center for a major retail company and has taken classes in business management.

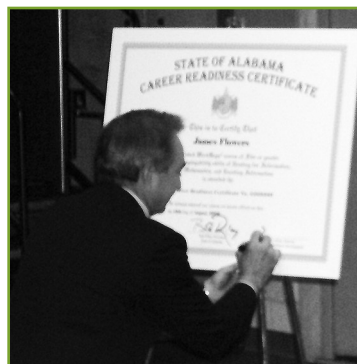
"I chose to further my education and it has paid off," said Flowers.

Governor Riley presented Flowers with his certificate saying that the program would take workforce development to a different level. "This initiative will help us maintain our status as the best workforce development state in the United States," Riley said.

The Office of Workforce Development was created in 2003 to consolidate the state's workforce programs. OWD strives to improve employment opportunities for Alabama residents through One-Stop Career Centers, job training and other programs. It is an independent office whose administrative duties are handled by ADECA.



**Governor Riley presents James Flowers with Alabama's first Career Readiness Certificate.**



**Dr. Tim Alford, director of the Office of Workforce Development, signs Flowers' certificate.**

# OWD Named Top Workforce Development Agency in Nation

OWD is committed to providing streamlined services and supporting programs to help Alabama workers and jobseekers obtain the job training and assistance they need. Those efforts to help Alabama workers have made the agency a model for workforce development programs nationwide.

Worldwide Interactive Network, a national publisher of workforce training materials, named OWD the top workforce development agency in the United States for 2006. OWD Director Dr. Tim Alford accepted the organization's Crystal Globe Award for outstanding state workforce development at the group's annual WorkKeys conference in May.

WIN President Teresa Chasteen cited OWD's improved coordination of all the state agencies involved in developing Alabama's workforce as well as its success in streamlining services and helping individuals with training and career choices as the main reasons why the agency received the honor.

"Dr. Alford and the state of Alabama have gotten the job done on all fronts, and every state should be looking at the workforce development model in Alabama," she said.

The award came with a \$1 million grant for a state-of-the-art interactive job training center. The center's focus will be on providing training in Alabama's high-growth advanced manufacturing industries.

Once open, the training center will be just the latest in a broad array of services offered by OWD to help Alabama workers. The state's Career Center system offers a one-stop place for jobseekers to get employment and job training information. Through Workforce Investment Act youth programs, troubled young adults can get their lives back on track by obtaining their GED and receiving training for a job in one of Alabama's high growth, high demand industries. The Rapid Response Team meets with recently laid-off workers to give them information about available state assistance and job training opportunities. Incumbent Worker Training grants help workers boost their earning potential and value to their company by providing training in the latest techniques in manufacturing and management.



***Worldwide Interactive Network recognized OWD's efforts to strengthen Alabama's workforce by naming it the best state workforce development agency in the nation for 2006.***

Dr. Alford said the partnership forged between state agencies has helped Alabama develop a stronger workforce.

"I'm proud of what we have accomplished," he said. "For the first time, we have a workforce system in the true meaning of the word, with all of our partner agencies working together to help Alabamians obtain the skills needed for employment."

# Office of Water Resources

## MISSION

To plan, coordinate, develop and manage Alabama's ground and surface water resources in a manner that is in the best interest of the state by recommending policies and legislation, conducting technical studies, implementing programs and projects and actively representing Alabama's intra- and interstate water resource interests.

## Programs Administered

- Floodplain Management Program
- Water Management Program
- Geographic Information System Program
- Interstate Support Program

## Groundwork by OWR Helps Residents Reduce Flood Damage

Alabamians tend to be drawn toward water. It's no wonder with so many lakes, rivers, streams, creeks and even a coastal area in the state. Growing up and living in Alabama, it would be hard not to appreciate and be captivated by the state's water resources.

Water has played a large role in the state's history, serving as the major mode of transportation for centuries. Water has been harnessed to produce energy, provide drinking water and offer recreational opportunities.

While water can be beckoning and inviting, it also possesses a power that must be respected and feared. Heavy rains can turn peaceful creeks and rivers into a destructive rage that damages property, causes injuries and takes lives.

Many programs managed by the Office of Water Resources Division ensure that Alabamians enjoy the water, but at least one program tries to safeguard residents against its destructive force.

In 2002 OWR assumed state management of the National Flood Insurance Program from the Alabama Emergency Management Agency.

The program offers insurance at reasonable rates to homeowners and landowners provided they follow guidelines intended to reduce the risk of property damage.

As part of the program, OWR is charged with

developing and updating maps depicting flood-zone areas. The maps play a big role in the flood insurance program by pinpointing areas most likely to flood during heavy rains and storms.

"The mapping is an ongoing process," said OWR's Ken Meredith, who serves as the state coordinator for the National Flood Insurance Program. "As we continue to develop areas of the state, we have to redefine the flood areas. Even if there was no development, acts of nature by themselves are changing the landscape and the flood zones."

In Alabama, 361 counties, cities and towns have signed on to participate in the flood insurance program. The program has picked up 31 new communities since 2005.

Part of the participation agreement requires

local governments to ensure that landowners build structures above flood levels. That may require that structures be built on poles or stilts or on a manmade earthen pad at least a foot above the flood zone. Residents who live in areas where governments do not participate in the flood program are not eligible to purchase flood insurance.

"The regulations adopted at the local level are a community's tool to manage any development in a flood hazard zone," Meredith said.

Charles R. Bazzell, flood plain administrator in Montgomery County, said the program typically



***Water at times can be a destructive force and a threat to humans and property.***



generates protests until that first disaster. Nearly a third of the county is positioned in some type of flood-plain area.

"I've even had people call me up after floods and say, 'Thank you,' for the flood insurance program," Bazzell said. "The program is sometimes hard for people to digest, but in the long run its

keeps the cost of insurance down."

OWR is scheduled to complete its statewide mapping process by 2010. The maps will be amended as land areas change, Meredith said.

"The goal of this program is simple: Save lives and property," Meredith said.

## GIS Program Helps Alabama Map Out Its Future

In law enforcement, they call it a composite drawing. Victims provide an artist with details of facial features. In time, the artist is able to complete an often accurate drawing of a suspect that many times results in a capture of a criminal.

They don't hunt criminals in OWR's

Geographic Information System, but they do use technical data and geological features that when combined can add up to jobs, safer communities and strategic plans to make Alabama communities stronger.

"GIS is taking computer graphics and attaching data to it to come up with a lot of questions to help you in coming up with solutions," said Philip Henderson, GIS program manager.

When Kia announced they were building an automobile plant just across the Alabama state line, GIS immediately detailing a map with concentric circles detailing likely areas for tier one, two and three suppliers for the plants and listing available industrial parks, major roads and employment figures. The map helped arm city, county and state with the necessary information to sway suppliers to build plants in Alabama.

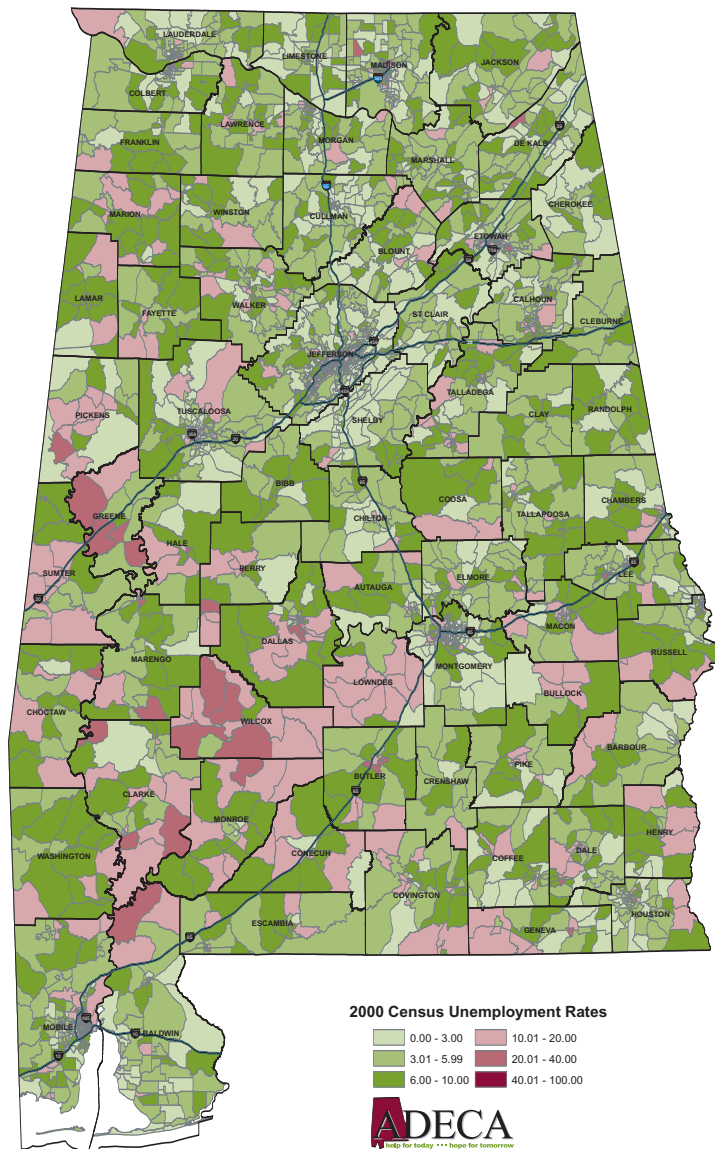
The GIS program has provided data to a number of state agencies outside ADECA and has also assisted the federal government, particularly the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in identifying flood areas and providing physical data on updated flood zones.

GIS data has also helped public safety offices and highway planners determine congested traffic routes, especially during special events like football games and other high-traffic events, and map out solutions.

Mapped data of the same area can also show some startling contrasts over a period of time. Using color-coded maps, analysts were able to situate two maps side by side and see a remarkable drop in unemployment rates in the state within a six-year period.

"You make it as simple or complicated as you want it to be," said Henderson. "The maps give a face to the data."

**2000 Census Unemployment Rates  
by Block Groups**



# Energy, Weatherization and Technology

## MISSION

To increase energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption, encourage and promote market acceptance of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, help limited income households better manage energy bills through education and assistance and encourage access to advanced telecommunication services in rural areas.

## Programs Administered

- Telecommunications Technology assistance Program
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- Energy Emergency and Assurance Program
- State Building Energy Efficiency Program
- Local Government Energy Loan Program
- Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program
- Alternative Transportation Fuels Program
- Recycling Program
- Biomass Energy Program
- ENERGY STAR® Program
- State Energy Program
- Building Energy Codes Program
- Energy-Efficient Homes Program
- Energy Education Program
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

## Weatherization Program Gives Residents Long-Term Relief from Energy Bills

Melva Johnson was forced into early retirement when she began experiencing health problems. The \$400-\$600 heating bills for her Birmingham home made it tough to obtain the medication she needed.

"It's hard when you have to choose between medication and heating your home," Johnson said.

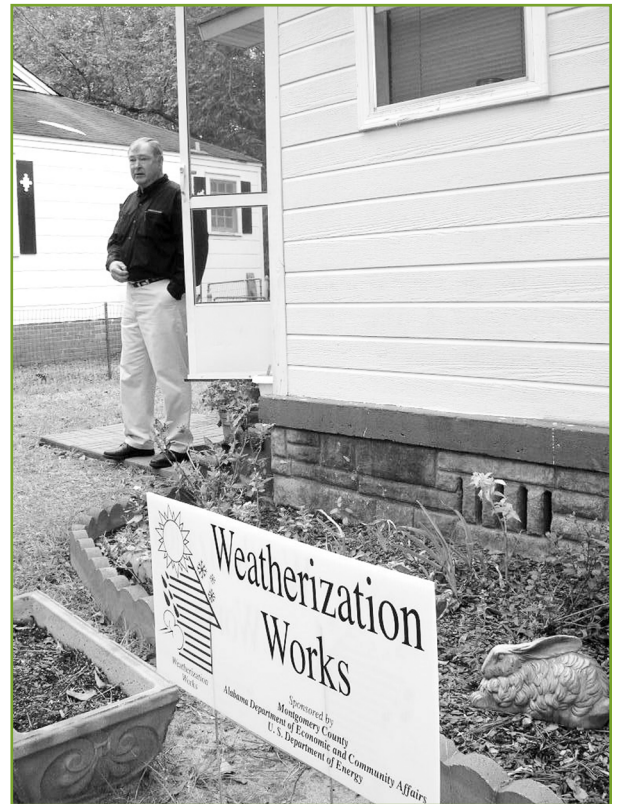
Fortunately, Johnson no longer has to make that choice thanks to assistance she received from the Energy, Weatherization and Technology Division's Weatherization Program. The program, funded through a U.S. Department of Energy grant, lowers energy bills by making houses more energy efficient. Weatherization assistance may include installing insulation, repairing or replacing faulty windows and doors, sealing air leaks and patching small areas of the roof, with an average of \$2,826 spent on each house.

To help Johnson, the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity, a local Community Action Agency, sent weatherization experts to assess Johnson's home for changes that would increase energy efficiency and make long-term improvements that would save her money on utility bills. The experts plugged air leaks by placing sealant around windows, caulking around doorframes and placing corkboard around the ceiling throughout the house.

As a result of the improvements, Johnson has saved hundreds of dollars on her energy bills. She

uses the savings to pay for her medication and other needs.

"My highest bill has been \$253, and I've been



**ADECA's Weatherization Program helps low-income residents save money on heating and cooling bills by making changes to improve energy efficiency. After a home is weatherized, families experience an average energy use reduction of 20 percent or more, which means hundreds of dollars in savings.**

able to pay that without getting assistance,” she said.

For low-income residents, high energy bills during hot summers and cold winters can be an almost impossible financial burden. This burden gets even heavier when energy prices soar, forcing families to cut back on necessities such as food and medicine to pay their energy bills. The changes made by weatherization experts lead to long-term relief from high energy costs. After a home is weatherized, families experience an average energy use reduction of 20 percent or more, which means hundreds of dollars that would have been used on energy bills can be used on other

needs.

ADECA distributes the funds to 16 Community Action Agencies and one county commission to deliver the assistance to those who need it most in the state’s 67 counties. From October 2005 to September 2006, the state provided weatherization assistance to 787 households with \$2.8 million. Johnson’s home was one of those.

Weatherization assistance is available to households with income of less than 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Priority is given to older residents, people with disabilities and families with young children.

## ‘Aquaculture’ Gets Boost Through EWT Program

“We are on the cutting edge, and so far it’s been successful.”

Lee Jackson is in the shrimp business, but he



***ADECA grants have enabled Lee Jackson to keep a watchful eye on the oxygen levels in his shrimp pond.***

doesn’t drop his net in the Gulf. He drops it in a pond in Lowndes County.

The Mosses native began farming shrimp in 2001. Jackson’s father, who helped develop the area’s first water system, discovered an abundance of salt water which Jackson has tapped to harvest thousands of pounds of shrimp over the last five years.

In October 2005, Tuskegee University was awarded an ADECA grant of \$49,666, administered through EWT’s Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program, to continue a project that has been largely responsible for Jackson’s success. In 2003, the university installed energy-efficient, solar-powered aerators that supply oxygen to the pond. Aeration is critical to the size, quality and health of shrimp and the new aerators generated significant savings

for Jackson’s business while ensuring the growth of the best shrimp possible.

The project also included computerized pond monitoring systems that keep oxygen at an optimal level. “It’s enabled us to keep shrimp alive and monitor water quality,” Jackson said.

Jackson believes this new type of agriculture, or aquaculture, can benefit the entire Black Belt region. He is looking to generate jobs through expansion of his business by adding new ponds and constructing a processing plant. “That means it could have an economic impact,” he said. There is also growing interest from struggling catfish farmers to start harvesting shrimp.

Without ADECA’s help, Jackson said he would probably still be in business, “but the results would be a lot worse.” Instead, Jackson’s harvests increase every year, and he can hope for greater economic development for the Black Belt.



***An aeration system along with natural inland salt water reservoirs help make it possible to raise shrimp in places in Alabama other than the Gulf Coast.***



# Surplus Property

## MISSION

To acquire property declared surplus by state agencies and the United States government and redistribute it fairly and equitably for use by local governments and eligible Alabama organizations.

### Programs Administered

- State and Federal Property Collection
- Public Auctions
- Transfers to Governments, Non-profits

## Communities Count on Surplus Property When Times get Tough

Throughout the year, Surplus Property acquires property no longer needed by state agencies and the United States government. The property is transferred to Alabama local governments and eligible non-profit organizations.

As part of its mission to redistribute property equitably, the division has helped local governments and agencies in south Alabama acquire equipment to replace items damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

"During the past year we have concentrated on Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in Bayou La Batre and other Alabama coastal areas," said Shane Bailey, Surplus Property director. "The total for just the relief efforts has been close to \$6 million. With the assistance from numerous Department of Defense agencies, we transferred cranes, bulldozers, dump trucks, generators, scoop loaders and many other items to local governments across south Alabama so they can continue providing vital services and begin repairs to boost the quality of life in their communities."

Through Surplus Property, Bayou La Batre obtained equipment to help the city and its residents recover as they picked up the pieces in Katrina's aftermath. The equipment was desperately needed by the city after most of their equipment was destroyed during the storm.

"Our equipment was under water, and we had no money to buy new equipment for the city," Bayou La Batre Mayor Stan Wright said. "We are still using the police cars, bulldozers and

front-end loaders we got from Surplus. We have really been blessed and are very appreciative."

To continue providing the best service to its customers and keep updated on sales and innovative ways to save taxpayer dollars through the purchase of state and federal unneeded equipment, Surplus Property employees have attended numerous conventions and training seminars not only in Alabama but also across the United States.

During the past fiscal year, the division also has taken steps to inform eligible organizations of the advantages of purchasing surplus property.

"We continue to promote Surplus Property programs throughout Alabama," Bailey said, "to make sure that those who might need our assistance know how to take advantage of what we have to offer."



*In 2006, Surplus Property helped communities in south Alabama obtain much-needed equipment, including this 60-ton crane, to help recover and rebuild after Hurricane Katrina.*



Alabama Department of Economic



and Community Affairs Staff



# Program Integrity

## MISSION

To safeguard public funds administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs through technical assistance, on-site compliance reviews and project inspections to ensure that all intended services are delivered.

## Program Integrity Helps Non-profit Gain Better Financial Footing

ADECA awards grant funds to various organizations with an expectation that they will improve the lives of Alabamians by providing services in the manner described in their grant applications. The Program Integrity Unit helps ensure that grantees are following state and federal laws, rules and regulations and looks into complaints that grantees are not following rules and regulations in their grant contracts.

Recently, the unit worked with ADECA's Audit Section to train the financial staff of a non-profit organization that had problems with financial management.

"They wanted to resolve their problems, and they sent a letter to the ADECA director requesting our

help," said Paula Murphy, Program Integrity manager.

The training focused on proper procurement procedures so the staff could learn how to make the most of their grant funds by getting the best price for needed goods and services. As a result, the non-profit now is able to provide more cost-effective services to its clients.

Program Integrity also has hired an engineer to review cost estimates, construction plans and specifications for local governments who are awarded grants for community improvements. The engineer will help governments make the most of their grant funds by preventing overpricing and making sure they get a fair deal.

## Audit

## MISSION

To provide financial monitoring through reviews or special audits of ADECA grant recipients, provide technical assistance and training to ADECA program managers and grantees and conduct internal reviews of operations, processes and systems to enhance efficiency and effectiveness and verify compliance.

## Audit Section Helps Cast Net of Hope for Shrimpers

Shrimping is a family business, passed down from generation to generation, and for many in the family it is all they know. So when disasters like Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina strike, the results can be devastating.

"Storms and other issues had put a lot of them out of business," said Wendy Spivey, ADECA's audit manager.

To help Gulf Coast shrimpers stay in operation, ADECA is administering \$825,780 in disaster-relief funds. Spivey has been involved since day one to ensure things are done right and delivery of funds is not delayed.

Shrimpers, processors and boat owners formed the Eat Alabama Wild Shrimp Committee which is

using the grant funds to keep shrimpers afloat through financial assistance and a marketing campaign aimed at convincing consumers to eat more Alabama shrimp. To keep the money coming, the committee must follow the rules.

"They had to operate differently than they were operating as a for-profit entity" because of federal regulations, Spivey said.

With Audit's help, the committee is going strong and was a sponsor of the National Shrimp Festival in October 2006.

In addition to training and monitoring grantees, the audit staff also reviews internal ADECA operations to boost efficiency and effectiveness.

# Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety

## MISSION

To increase safety and quality of life by encouraging professional planning and innovative programs for Alabama's criminal justice system, addressing traffic safety problems, assisting child and domestic abuse victims, supporting drug/violent crime prevention programs and programs to prevent juvenile crime.

### Programs Administered

- Family Violence and Victims' Programs
- Corrections
- Highway Traffic Safety
- Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities
- Juvenile Justice
- Law Enforcement Programs

## StrongGirls

### Sets Juvenile Offender on Path to Brighter Future

Youth who commit violent, criminal offenses and find themselves in juvenile court face an important choice: continue destructive behaviors that lead to unproductive lives of crime, or avoid drugs and violence and set goals for a brighter future.

Through Juvenile Justice Formula grants, ADECA's Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division supports community-based programs that help juveniles make the right choice.

One juvenile who was able to improve her life with the assistance of an ADECA-funded program is Tameka from Jefferson County.

Tameka's grades were better than average, but her chances of finishing high school were slim since she had just been suspended for fighting for the third time.

Tameka's mom was stressed and tired after work and school. It didn't take much to set her off, and the call from Tameka's school about the suspension was the final straw. Tameka had barely walked in the door when she felt the sting of her mom's hand across her face. Being the kind of girl who "didn't take anything from anybody," Tameka slapped her mother back. Tameka's grandmother witnessed the scene and called the police.

Juvenile court mandated that Tameka attend StrongGirls, a 16-session program for girls age 14-17 in Jefferson County who have displayed problem behaviors. Meeting twice a week, the girls learn trust, self-respect and accountability through games, group therapy and creative arts. Poetry, visual art,

drum circles and dance lessons are some of the arts used to help participants build confidence, self-esteem and find enjoyable positive activities. Parents attend eight separate sessions where they learn skills to improve their parenting, including communication and setting limits.

"The girls' world tends to be narrow. The only thing they know is the neighborhood and school," program director Eve Laxer said. "We try to show them that there is much more than that out there."

Tameka's mother expressed disgust about having to attend parent sessions and Tameka modeled her mom's attitude at first. Then something changed: Tameka discovered she was looking forward to the sessions.

Tameka liked the art projects and absorbed every drop of praise for her artwork and willingness to try new things. She also caught on quickly to the dance steps practiced at each session.

Still, Tameka was quiet during group therapy. She did not put her trust in other girls, so it was new to her to hear girls with some of the same problems share their struggles. When Tameka began to talk it was clear that her tough-girl anger was a cover for a young girl longing for someone who really cared.

"The girls are very defensive at first, and pretty separated," Laxer said. "But about halfway through in therapy they open up and learn to trust the other girls."

To address Tameka's mother's resistance to the program, staff members asked a parent of a girl who



*A participant in the StrongGirls program paints a canvas during a session.*

had gone through StrongGirls to speak with her about the program's benefits. The dialog proved to be a turning point in the mother-daughter relationship.

Although her mother arrived late for the StrongGirls dance performance and graduation, Tameka caught a glimpse of tears in her eyes when Tameka received her graduation certificate. This was the first time in many years that Tameka had finished something successfully. Soon after, she was accepted into a local dance troupe. Her mother takes her to dance practice two nights a week and stays to watch. Tameka returned to school and has had no additional suspensions.

"We want to leave participants feeling better

about themselves (when they finish the program)," Laxer said. "We also try to hook them up with positive extracurricular activities like dance or the school band."

The program benefits everyone in the community by helping juveniles become productive citizens.

"Hopefully, after they leave us, the participants are graduating high school and becoming productive adults," Laxer said.

StrongGirls received a grant of \$40,057 from LETS in fiscal year 2006 to pay part of staff salaries and purchase art supplies and equipment.

"The grant funds are crucial to our program" Laxer said. "We are so grateful because it allows us to continue functioning."

## Thousands of Miles Away from Home, Domestic Violence Victim Reaches a 'Turning Point'

Rana was a long way from her home country, abused and alone.

She met her husband James in Qatar, where both worked on a U.S. military base. Because Rana's family would not approve, she began seeing him secretly and within a month, James proposed to marry and bring her to the United States. Rana's family threatened violence making it impossible for her to return to Qatar. After the wedding she moved to Tuscaloosa to live with James and his mother.

After about a month, James began to change, first becoming verbally and mentally abusive to Rana, then physically and sexually abusive. James threatened her with deportation if she didn't follow his rules, demanded she stay in the house while he was at work and had his mother report Rana's actions to him. She soon discovered that her husband also was unfaithful. Unfamiliar with U.S. laws that offered protections to domestic violence victims, she was afraid to call the police.

James decided to take a job in Iraq, telling Rana she must find a place to live and take care of herself while he was away. After he left, Rana reported his abuse. The police recommended that she contact Turning Point, a Tuscaloosa-based program that assists victims of domestic violence in six west Alabama counties and sexual assault victims in nine counties.

Turning Point provides a 24-hour crisis hotline, a six-bedroom emergency shelter, counseling programs,

support groups and advocates to help victims understand their rights and provide legal assistance.

This assistance was a literal turning point in Rana's life. Court advocate Michele Snyder and legal services attorney Aimee Pittman told Rana about Violence Against Women Act protections that allow immigrant wives of U.S. citizens to petition for a special visa if they are domestic violence victims.

"Michele and Aimee worked with Rana on a self-petition that would offer her an opportunity to stay in the United States and be able to pursue a divorce from her abusive husband," said Paige Miller, Turning Point's executive director.

Rana received the free, professional assistance she needed to end her abusive marriage and give her hope for a brighter future in the United States. She is now working, "living on her own and free from violence," Miller said.

In fiscal year 2006, the organization received \$143,431 from the Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division to support its free services to domestic violence victims. A grant awarded by ADECA helped fund the

salaries of both Snyder and Pittman.

Through the Victims of Crime Assistance and STOP Violence Against Women grant programs, LETS supports organizations throughout the state that help thousands of abuse victims per year. The grants help fund important free services that otherwise would not be accessible to most victims.



**Attorney Aimee Pittman, left, and victim's advocate Michele Snyder helped a domestic violence victim through Turning Point.**



# Appalachian Regional Commission

## MISSION

To create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life in Appalachia by increasing job opportunities and per capita income, strengthening the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy, improving Appalachia's infrastructure and building the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce Appalachia's isolation.

## Programs Administered

- Appalachian Regional Development
- Appalachian Area Development
- Appalachian Research, Technical Assistance and Demonstration Projects

## ARC Helps 'WRATT' Out Energy Waste

When the city of Lanett was searching for ways to reduce its energy costs, it turned to the Waste Reduction and Technology Transfer Foundation and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

WRATT is a non-profit group of retired scientists, engineers and professionals committed to helping public and private organizations conserve energy, reduce waste and protect the environment. WRATT was granted \$50,000 in ARC funds in fiscal year 2006 to send out its volunteers to provide free technical consultation services and conduct seminars and educational programs for 26 municipal governments. The city of Lanett was one of them.

"They pointed out some things we saw

but had taken for granted," said Jerry Thrower, Lanett's city inspector.

Thrower said the city was already making plans to upgrade some of their systems when WRATT came in and spotlighted some areas that were overlooked. He said the city has implemented 65 to 75 percent of WRATT's recommendations and there is already a noticeable difference.

"Our HVAC (air conditioning unit) is operating more efficiently and we are not having near the problems we had with it," Thrower said.

He said the city has installed new energy-saving computers, replaced inefficient lighting and cut down on water usage by fixing leaky faucets.

Thanks to ARC, 25 other Alabama cities and towns were afforded the opportunity to save energy and reduce their utility bills.

Since 1990, with funding support from ARC and other sources, WRATT has conducted more than 1,300 energy assessments, nearly half of which were for schools. Their recommendations have resulted in savings of more than \$10 million annually on energy bills for taxpayers and businesses.

Created by Congress in 1965, the Appalachian Regional Commission is a partnership of federal, state and local governments dedicated to promoting economic growth and improving the quality of life in a 13-state region along the Appalachian Mountains. In Alabama, ARC grants coordinated by ADECA help raise the standard of living in 37 counties.



***WRATT engineers inspect air conditioning units at a municipal city hall.***

# Governor's Resources and Economic Assistance Programs

## MISSION

To enhance local economic and community development activities by promoting economic development incentives with an emphasis on small and minority-owned businesses and providing resources for effective planning and implementation.

### Programs Administered

- Renewal Communities
- Gulf Opportunity Zone Credit Program
- Community and Economic Development Technical Assistance
- Alabama Enterprise Zones
- Delta Regional Authority
- Minority Business Enterprises
- Enterprise Communities

## Grant Helps Historic Quilting Bee Get Back in Business After Hurricane

The Freedom Quilting Bee has a lot of history. Formed near Gee's Bend in Wilcox County, the bee has employed women to make colorful quilts and other handmade items from Alabama's rural Black Belt to sell throughout the United States since 1966.

The bee began during the civil rights movement when several women came together to earn supplemental income by creating quilts using patterns passed down to them from their mothers and grandmothers. The quilts were sold at stores in the eastern United States and displayed at the Smithsonian Institution, gaining national acclaim for their creative and colorful designs. In 1977, the Legislature designated the bee's Pine Burr Quilt as Alabama's state quilt.

The historic bee almost became history in the early 2000s. The number of quilters declined as the original members of the bee got older and became unable to continue quilting and fewer younger women developed an interest in quilt making. The final straw almost came in 2004 when Hurricane Ivan severely damaged the roof of the building in Alberta that the bee had used since its start to make their handmade items.

"We were using the building before the hurricane but struggling," said Rennie Miller, president

of the bee. "After the damage we stopped the work."

Miller said that although the work stopped because the quilters no longer had a building in which to make their creations, she believed the bee would find a way to continue.

"We closed down to reassess our situation," she said. "We never gave up hope."

Their hope for a better future became a reality with a \$50,000 Delta Regional Authority grant awarded in January 2006. The DRA program in Alabama is overseen by ADECA's newly formed Governor's Resources and Economic Assistance Programs office. REAP helps local officials find state and federal resources and assistance for economic and community development in their communities. The grant is funding construction of a new roof for the



***Quilters from the Freedom Quilting Bee work on a quilt during demonstration at the Folk Life Festival in October 2006. The festival was held at the Black Belt Treasures store in Camden.***

quilting bee facility.

"This grant means everything," Miller said. "Without that grant we could not continue. Now, we know something will be done, and we'll get our building back in shape."

Once the building is repaired in early 2007, Miller said the bee will employ six women to make quilts and other handmade items, preserving a piece of Alabama history while creating jobs for



***Hurricane Ivan severely damaged the Freedom Quilting Bee's building in 2004, but a grant from the Delta Regional Authority awarded in 2006 is funding repairs so the quilters can get back to work.***

the women to support their families. The quilts will be sold through mail order and Black Belt Treasures, a store in Camden that sells items made by artists in Alabama's Black Belt counties.

The bee will hold demonstrations and

instructional sessions in the building to draw visitors interested in learning more about the art of quilting. Miller said the resumed operation of the Gee's Bend ferry will help lure tourists to the building.

"Tourists can see the quilts being made and someone will explain how to make them," Miller said.

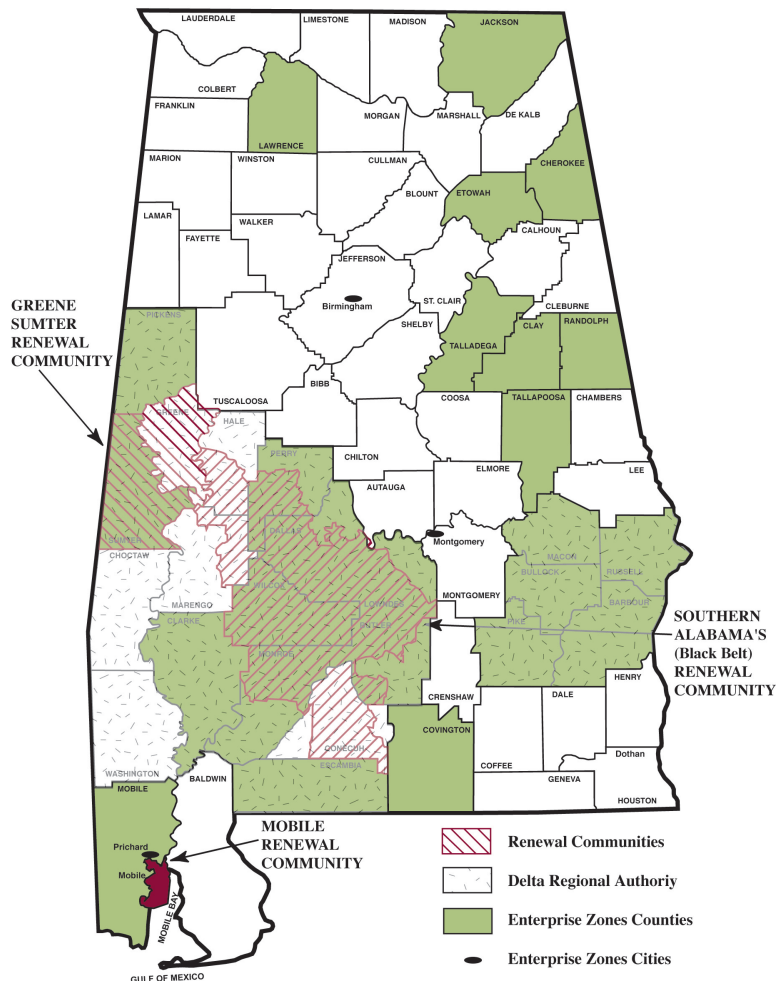
To spur interest in quilt making among the younger generation, the bee will offer an after-school program at the facility. Participants will learn all aspects of the art so they can continue the long tradition of quilt making in Wilcox County.

Once the bee is up and running in the repaired building, Miller anticipates that increased interest and demand for the handmade items will allow the bee to employ more quilters.

By funding the roof repairs, the DRA is helping economic development in Wilcox County by creating new jobs and providing a destination to draw tourists interested in the art of quilt making and the history of the bee to the area.

The DRA was created by Congress in 2000 to promote economic development, improve education

#### Governor's Resources and Economic Assistance Programs Areas



***Freedom Quilting Bee president Rennie Miller said the bee plans to employ six women to make hand-made items once building repairs are finished.***

and enhance the quality of life in eight states. The Authority serves 20 Alabama counties, including Wilcox County, classified as "distressed" because of a number of factors including unemployment rates higher than the national average, a significant population loss or the closing of a major business or industry.



# Recreational Programs

## MISSION

To generate outdoor recreation opportunities, to strengthen the health and vitality of Alabama's population, and foster sound planning and investment strategies to protect, expand and ensure the quality of outdoor recreation.

### Programs Administered

- Land & Water Conservation Fund
- Recreational Trail Program

## Recreational Trail, Land and Water Conservation Funds Enhance Outdoor Activities Throughout Alabama

For years ADECA has been encouraging Alabamians to enjoy the outdoors through its Recreational Trails and Land and Water Conservation Fund grants.

In addition to promoting healthy lifestyles, projects funded by the grants serve to enhance communities, attract tourists and encourage family, community and area activities. Trail and park grants benefit urban and rural communities throughout Alabama.

A \$44,584 Recreational Trail grant for the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens opened a new world for many people.

The grant not only was used to renovate a nearly mile-long trail through the gardens and to control erosion, it also resulted in making the gardens accessible for people using walkers and wheelchairs.

Evelyn Isbell, one of the pioneers of the garden, said lack of a handicapped-accessible trail prevented many people from observing all of the gardens.

"It is such a wonderful place, but if you are in a wheelchair or on a walker like me you couldn't see the entire gardens," Isbell said.

Paul Angeloff, director of the gardens, said the improvements in the 50-acre gardens have had positive effects, including increasing attendance.

"Everybody has just marveled at the results," said Angeloff. "We have never had the traffic like we have had this year."

The gardens were established in the 1990s and rely heavily on volunteers and contributions from individuals and businesses. The gardens attract people throughout southeast Alabama, southwest Georgia and the Florida Panhandle. In addition to flower enthusiasts, visitors include school and scouting groups.

In the Cullman County town of Colony, a \$60,765 LWCF grant has had some similar benefits.

While some of the grant was used to upgrade existing playground equipment, much of the funding was spent to build a water feature or "sprayground."

The sprayground shoots water in a variety of methods and allows children to get wet. It is cheaper to maintain than a swimming pool.

"It has been really a big thing for us. People are just amazed at it," Mayor Earlene Johnson said of the attraction. "It is ideal for a rural community like Colony. It is a wonderful water feature that doesn't bring with it the liability of a swimming pool."

Mayor Johnson said the water feature which is at Vivian B. Allen Park is one

of the few recreational opportunities offered to children in the community. In addition to attracting locals, it has also brought in people from nearby towns, Mayor Johnson said.

The sprayground is open from May until September and on special occasions when weather permits.



***A Recreational Trail grant has helped the Dothan Botanical Gardens to become more accessible.***

## Legal Section

### MISSION

To provide advice, risk management, litigation and other legal services to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

#### Programs Administered

- Legal
- General Services

### Legal Section Ensures Accountability in ADECA Matters

Nearly every formal document that is released through ADECA makes its way through the Legal Section.

Eddie Davis, who heads the section, said staff attorneys review all contracts and grants issued by the department to ensure legal accountability.

Staff members also closely follow proposed legislative bills and possible effects on ADECA divisions and employees. The section also ensures that ADECA divisions are familiar with new or amended laws.

Attorneys work individually with divisions to provide legal guidance in a variety of matters ranging from formulating documents to interpreting technical issues.

The Legal Section represents ADECA in litigation and court-related matters.

The staff also works with the personnel section to ensure that matters involving ADECA employees are conducted according to policies and procedures.

“The greatest compliment to our office would be that no one knew that we existed,” said Davis. “That would mean we are quietly going about our duties and all is well with our department.”

General Services, which falls under the Legal Section, handles the department’s mail and parcels, interoffice correspondence and oversees distribution of office supplies for ADECA.

## Human Resources

### MISSION

To effectively administer ADECA’s personnel needs and use all available resources to provide current and potential employees with the highest quality of personnel-related services.

### Human Resources Helps ADECA Hire Qualified Workforce

With a staff of more than 200, ADECA administers dozens of programs and support services that help improve the lives of individuals throughout the state. The Human Resources section helps the department maintain the competent, well-qualified staff needed to manage the programs effectively.

To assist ADECA’s divisions in the hiring process, Human Resources obtains registers of qualified applicants for specific positions from the state Personnel Department. The section maintains contact with applicants throughout the hiring process and extends the job offer once a director or manager has chosen the applicant best capable of performing the job.

“We help move the process along,” said Ramona Carroll, personnel manager.

As ADECA’s responsibilities change or expand it is sometimes necessary to establish new positions. In 2006, when the Office of Water Resources needed to hire two new employees, Human Resources worked with OWR to determine the duties as well as the skills and experience needed to be successful in the new positions. HR determined that the Geological Information Systems Specialist classification in the state merit system closely matched the new duties, and the section began working with the state Personnel Department to establish and fill the positions. By carefully matching duties with a classification, the Human Resources section ensures that the most-qualified applicants available will be considered for new jobs.

# Information Services

## MISSION

To provide information technology and telecommunications services and support to ADECA and its stakeholders.

## Programs Administered

- PC Support
- Telecommunications
- Operations
- Programming

## Information Services Pitches In to Help Displaced Workers Return to the Workforce

If an ADECA employee runs into technology problems, Information Services is there to help. IS provides equipment and know-how to support and link ADECA's wide-ranging programs, projects and services. But it's not just ADECA employees that benefit from the expertise of the IS staff.

In May 2006, Avondale Mills announced it would shut down operations, leaving more than 1,000 workers in Talladega and St. Clair counties without jobs. In the city of Talladega, displaced workers could go to the One-Stop Career Center to get help finding a new job, but in Sylacauga no such help was available.

To save workers a trip and get them back working as soon as possible, the Talladega center opened a satellite office in Sylacauga. That's when IS was called in.

"They were thankful they didn't have to make the commute to Talladega," said David Waters who, with other IS technicians, spent three days in Sylacauga setting up 22 computers for job seekers and six more for career center staff. The computers are invaluable tools that help workers create a resume, search for job openings, apply for jobs and receive e-mails that notify them of openings that match their skills.

Waters said the services provided at the career center actually have far-reaching effects. "You give (workers) the chance to upgrade their skills," he said.

"That's a big victory for the entire state."

Gwen Taylor of the Career Center agreed. "Some of the workers don't have computers at home," she said. "The computers installed by ADECA have been very helpful."

Taylor said more than 1,500 job seekers took advantage of the center's services in its first two months of operation. One of those was Carl Hathcock.

Hathcock worked for Avondale for 29 years. When the news came that the company was shutting down, he was stunned.

"It's the only place I have ever worked," Hathcock said.

Not only was Hathcock suddenly forced to look

for a new job, he quickly realized he would need a new set of skills to find something as soon as possible. The biggest obstacle to developing those new skills was the burden of having to travel to Talladega to get help. The opening of the Sylacauga career center was a relief.

"With gas prices the way they are and not working, that made a difference to me,"

said Hathcock. "It's been a big help."

Thanks to the computers that were installed by ADECA's Information Services staff, Hathcock was able to study for, take and pass the exam for his commercial driver's license. With his new skills, he is ready to re-enter the workforce and start the next phase of his career.



**Roy Jones, left, and David Waters of ADECA's Information Services staff install computers in Sylacauga.**



# Financial Services

## MISSION

To provide administrative support functions including financial management, purchasing, payroll and property management in an accountable and timely manner to meet the needs of ADECA and the citizens of Alabama.

### Programs Administered

- Fiscal Section
- Payroll
- Property Management

## Training Presentation Helps Grantees Avoid Funding Delays

When residents served by ADECA grantees ask for help, chances are they need it right away. Financial Services works with grantees to make sure ADECA funds are used properly so the vital help they provide to Alabamians can be delivered in a timely manner.

An ADECA grant doesn't mean a blank check for the organizations awarded the funds. When applying for grants, organizations must submit budgets detailing how the funds will be used. A mistake or request for something not included in the budget leads to a delay in funds while the request is sent back to the grantee for correction.

To help grantees avoid these mistakes so they can concentrate on providing services that help Alabamians, Financial Services participates in periodic training sessions hosted by ADECA's divisions.

"These training sessions help grantees head off problems," said lead accountant William Waldroff, who participates in sessions for recipients of grants from the Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division.

The presentation includes an overview of the financial side of a grant and the procedures ADECA follows to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations. Grantees are shown how to prepare complete, accurate budgets and requests for reimbursement from grant funds. Waldroff also answers questions about grantees' specific situations.

"The presentation helps them understand how to comply and what to submit to ADECA," Waldroff said.

After a training session, Waldroff offers follow-up assistance to any organization needing help. On request, he also sends electronic files of frequently used forms, such as budget revisions, to grantees for their convenience. The forms are standardized and based in Microsoft Excel to reduce the chance of an error that could lead to a delay while the grantee corrects it.

The information presented and follow-up assistance offered by Financial Services has helped several LETS grantees.

"Some of the non-profit programs don't have a lot of reserve funds, so any delay in grant funds can affect them," Waldroff said. "I've had numerous organizations tell me they really have benefited from the information and improved their financial compliance."

Such improvements mean that organizations will receive funding more quickly for the wide range of vital services they provide for Alabamians every day.



*Attendees listen to a speaker from ADECA during an informational session for grantees at the Alabama Center for Commerce. A Financial Services representative often presents information in training sessions to help grantees maintain compliance and avoid funding delays.*

# Communications and Information

## MISSION

To foster ADECA's mission of Building Better Alabama Communities by informing and educating the public, providing support to all of ADECA's divisions and encouraging participation in community service projects.

### Programs Administered

- Public Information
- Census Bureau Liaison
- Charitable Campaigns
- Graphic Arts
- Legislation

## CID Announces ADECA's Helpful Grants and Programs

ADECA's grants are important news for citizens and communities across the state because they enrich lives through infrastructure improvement and expansion, economic development, job creation and career advancement, traffic safety, energy conservation and dozens of other ways. Making sure that residents are informed about grants and programs that impact their area is the objective of the Communications and Information Division.

Through print, broadcast and online media, CID works to inform Alabamians of services from which they may benefit. One of those programs is weatherization.

In September 2006, ADECA awarded \$40,413 to make improvements to homes in Montgomery County. Improvements include adding insulation, replacing or repairing windows and doors, sealing air leaks and patching holes in roofs. With winter

fast approaching, the Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission needed to get the word out that this service was available to residents whose homes were not ready for the cold.

Donny Barber, the commission's weatherization coordinator, enlisted CID's help to publicize a demonstration of the benefits of weatherization in hopes that residents would send in more applications for the service. An eligible Montgomery resident volunteered her home for inspection and improvements and local officials were on hand to witness the effectiveness of the program.

The efforts of CID staff ensured the presence of local media representatives at the event and the next day Barber got the response he was looking for.

"We were flooded with calls from the time we stepped in the office," Barber said.

## Education is also a CID Goal

CID doesn't just announce grants; the division conducts public education efforts as well.

Rising energy costs are a concern for everyone. Increasing gas prices and utility bills take money out of people's pockets and inefficient homes and appliances contribute to environmental problems.

ADECA's Energy, Weatherization and Technology Division wanted Alabamians to know that they can save money and help protect the environment by using energy-efficient building practices and by looking for the ENERGY STAR® label on lighting and appliances. They approached CID with the challenge.

"CID's job was to find an affordable way to get the word out," said CID Director Larry Childers.

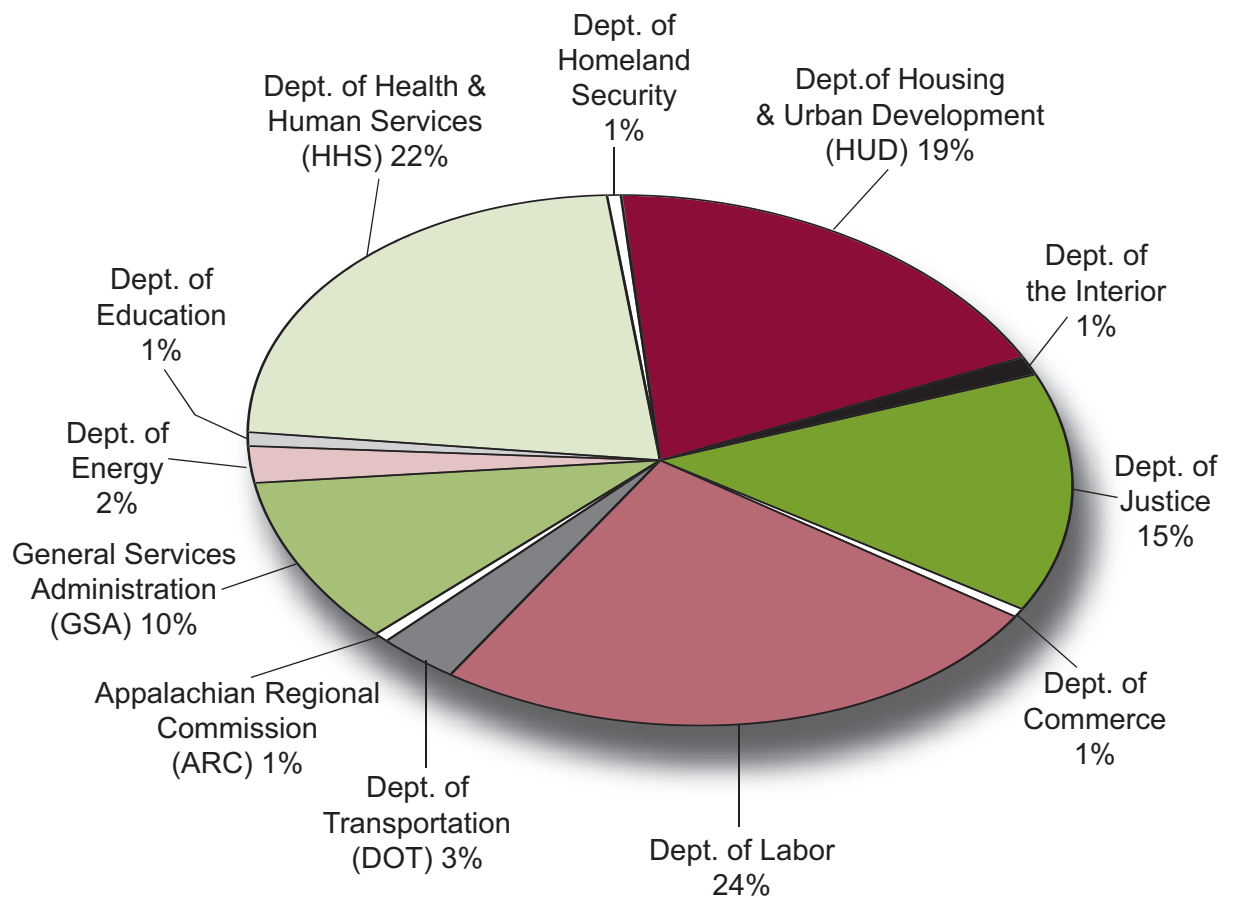
Working with EWT and a local newspaper,

CID arranged for a comprehensive four-page tabloid to be printed that focused on the ENERGY STAR® program and ways home builders and buyers can save energy and money.

"We needed to convey more information than could be included in a typical newspaper ad or broadcast commercial," said Childers. A newspaper insert proved to be the most effective way to get the word out and stay within the U.S. Department of Energy funds budgeted for the project.

The tabloid was distributed to more than 200,000 households in Birmingham, Mobile and Montgomery informing a large segment of homeowners about the benefits of ENERGY STAR® materials and appliances.

# Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Federal Funding Sources FY 2006



# Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

## 2005-2006 Federal Receipts and Disbursements

Federal Grantor / Program Title	Receipts	Disbursements
<b>DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b>		
<b>Economic Development Administration</b>		
Economic Development - Support for Planning Organizations ( New Program)	114,000.00	159,321.63
Economic Adjustment Assistance (New Program)	340,000.00	0.00
<b>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service</b>		
Unallied Industry Projects	563,698.34	563,489.34
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT</b>		
<b>Community Planning and Development</b>		
Community Development Block Grants/State's Program	32,806,817.85	32,800,590.35
Emergency Shelter Grants Program	1,650,199.03	1,650,132.50
Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS	1,383,752.92	1,377,594.27
<b>DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR</b>		
<b>National Park Service</b>		
Outdoor Recreation - Acquisition, Development and Planning	2,190,406.40	2,157,809.88
<b>DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</b>		
<b>Office Of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance</b>		
Prisoner Reentry Initiative Demonstration (Offender Reentry)	256,823.62	256,842.10
Edward Byrne Memorial Formula Grant Program	2,012,123.31	2,009,272.58
Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth in Sentencing Incentive Grants	2,703,726.52	2,703,600.56
Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program	(142.16)	14,999.98
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	11,932,695.11	3,395,416.34
<b>OJP, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)</b>		
Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants	30,615.46	1,633,237.42
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - Allocation to the States	1,278,490.97	1,277,141.55
Title V - Delinquency Prevention Program	156,019.35	155,339.85
Part E - State Challenge Activities	9,527.41	9,527.41
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program	416,768.82	416,467.85
<b>OJP, National Institute of Justice</b>		
National Institute of Justice Research, Evaluation, & Dev Project Grants	177,395.43	177,395.26
<b>OJP, Office for Victims of Crime</b>		
Crime Victim Assistance	5,588,337.90	5,584,713.81
<b>Office on Violence Against Women</b>		
Violence Against Women Formula Grants	1,888,726.27	1,879,918.15
Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program	441,335.00	441,335.00
Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders	439,035.59	439,035.59
<b>OJP, Corrections Program Office</b>		
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners	1,225,168.14	1,224,875.44
<b>DEPARTMENT OF LABOR</b>		
<b>Employment and Training Administration</b>		
Workforce Investment Act		
Adult Program	12,161,702.49	12,327,921.69
Youth Activities	12,346,917.58	12,167,369.17
Dislocated Workers	20,124,317.83	19,732,620.41
Pilots, Demonstrations, and Research Projects (New Program)	2,104,835.11	2,104,071.93
Work Incentives Grant	389,026.59	388,671.69
Incentive Grants - WIA Section 503	876,580.64	559,894.83



<b>Federal Grantor / Program Title</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</b>		
<b>Federal Highway Administration</b>		
Recreational Trails Program	832,598.98	865,026.65
<b>National Highway Traffic Safety Administration</b>		
State and Community Highway Safety	2,342,576.38	2,533,335.83
Occupant Protection	944,231.98	944,231.98
Federal Highway Safety Data Improvements Incentive Grants	548,372.06	545,886.90
Safety Incentive Grants for Use of Seatbelts	275,046.27	275,154.01
Safety Incentives to Prevent Operation of Motor Vehicles by Intoxicated Persons	926,846.57	562,198.90
Transportation Demo Grant and Section 2003b Safety Belts	39,753.72	40,808.15
<b>APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION</b>		
Appalachian Regional Development	1,805.44	0.00
Appalachian Area Development	822,645.60	822,645.60
Appalachian Research, Technical Assistance and Demonstration Projects	109,380.46	121,488.70
<b>GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Donation of Federal Surplus Personal Property (NOTE 1)	19,637,607.00	16,041,356.00
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY</b>		
<b>Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy</b>		
State Energy Program	553,116.74	547,091.96
Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons	2,704,153.55	2,713,278.93
Regional Biomass Energy Programs (New Program)	1,235.49	1,259.61
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Information		
Dissemination, Outreach, Training and Technical Analysis/Assistance	34,503.89	42,696.84
State Energy Program Special Projects	44,859.07	44,401.31
<b>Other Federal Assistance</b>		
Citronelle	49,196.62	22,009.59
Crude Oil Refund	170,875.13	0.00
Exxon	(33,076.35)	109,024.79
Second Stage	67,355.06	58,352.66
Strip Oil	214,908.13	172,616.62
Texaco	189,174.75	115,387.79
<b>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>		
<b>Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools</b>		
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities - State Grants	1,489,692.33	1,429,862.52
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</b>		
<b>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration</b>		
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects	1,310,605.21	1,304,724.75
<b>Administration for Children and Families</b>		
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	30,057,751.99	30,015,156.33
Community Services Block Grant	11,145,930.39	11,078,683.28
Community Services Block Grant Formula and Discretionary		
Awards - Community Food and Nutrition Programs	73,229.03	73,229.03
Social Services in Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities	335,348.61	341,406.37
Family Violence Prevention and Services/Grants for Battered Women's Shelters	1,449,186.85	1,447,985.04
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY</b>		
Community Assistance Program State Support Services Element (CAP-SSEE)	121,283.45	130,690.26
Cooperating Technical Partners	379,553.21	379,582.21
Map Modernization Management Support	172,304.53	176,448.93
<b>TOTAL FEDERAL ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>193,049,080.17</b>	<b>180,990,010.07</b>

# Get Connected to ADECA Services

ADECA . . . . .	334-242-5100
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) . . . . .	256-845-3472
Audit . . . . .	334-242-5470
Communications & Information (CID) . . . . .	334-242-5525
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) . . . . .	334-242-0492
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) . . . . .	334-353-4023
Energy, Weatherization & Technology (EWT) . . . . .	334-242-5290
Financial Services (FS) . . . . .	334-242-5729
Gov.'s Resources & Economic Assistance Programs (REAP) . . .	334-242-5370
Human Resources . . . . .	334-242-5251
Information Services (IS) . . . . .	334-242-5529
Law Enforcement & Traffic Safety (LETS) . . . . .	334-242-5897
Legal Services . . . . .	334-242-5255
Office of Workforce Development (OWD) . . . . .	334-242-5300
Office of Water Resources (OWR) . . . . .	334-242-4991
Program Integrity . . . . .	334-242-5470
Surplus Property . . . . .	334-277-5866



Bob Riley, Governor